

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An emulsion composition, comprising:

an optically isotropic surfactant phase comprising a nonionic surfactant (hereinafter the phase being referred to as the surfactant phase) in an amount of 10% or more by mass, wherein said surfactant phase is present as droplets ranging from 0.1 to 10 μm in an aqueous solution phase, and

an aqueous solution phase comprising an electrolytic salt (hereinafter the phase being referred to as the aqueous solution phase), the amount of the salt being such an amount that the aqueous solution phase is incompatible with the surfactant phase, wherein the water content of the entire composition is 20% or more by mass and the electrolytic salt content is from 4 to 32% by mass,

wherein the surfactant phase and the aqueous solution phase are stabilized with an emulsifier polymer comprising a segment (a) having affinity with the aqueous solution phase and a segment (b) having affinity with the surfactant phase (hereinafter the polymer being referred to as the emulsifier polymer) wherein said emulsifier polymer is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) a copolymer [[of]] containing an ester of a polyalkylene glycol and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group or a salt thereof; and (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof, wherein the terminal of the alkyleneoxy group is a hydroxyl group or an alkyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms so as to be an ether bond (hereinafter being referred to as emulsifier polymer (1));

(2) a copolymer [[of]] containing an ether of polyalkylene glycol having a reactive unsaturated group; and (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof (hereinafter being referred to as emulsifier polymer (2)); [[or]] and

(3) a polymer wherein the segment (a) is a polymer chain comprising, in its constituting unit, (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof, and the segment (b) thereof is a hydrocarbon group having 9 to 30 carbon atoms a copolymer containing (meth)acrylic acid esters having a saturated alkyl or aralkyl group having 9 to 30 carbon atoms; and (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof (hereinafter being referred to as emulsifier polymer (3)).

2.- 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, which further comprises a water-soluble organic solvent which comprises a hydroxyl group.

7. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer is a block polymer or a graft polymer.

8. - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the electrolytic salt is a carbonate of an alkali metal.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the nonionic surfactant has an HLB of 9 to 16.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, which has a viscosity (at 25 °C) of 3000 mPa·s or less.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, which is for a detergent.

17. **(Previously Presented)** A liquid detergent composition comprising the emulsion composition according to claim 1 and inorganic builder particles dispersed in the emulsion composition, wherein the mass ratio of the emulsifier polymer/the inorganic builder particles is from 1/80 to 1/4.

18. **(Original)** The liquid detergent composition according to claim 17, wherein the inorganic builder particles comprise an aluminosilicate compound.

19. **(Original)** The liquid detergent composition according to claim 17 or 18, which has a viscosity (at 25 °C) of 3000 mPa·s or less.

20. (Original) A process for producing the liquid detergent composition according to claim 17 or 18, comprising the step of mixing an emulsion composition comprising the emulsifier polymer, the electrolytic salt, the nonionic surfactant and water with inorganic builder particles.

21. (Currently Amended) The emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer is a copolymer [[of]] containing

(a) an ester of

(b1) a polyalkylene glycol and

(b2) (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof; and

(c) (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof.

22. (New) A emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer (1) is a copolymer containing an ester of a polyalkylene glycol and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group or a salt thereof; and (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof, wherein the hydroxyl group of the polyalkylene glycol is substituted by an alkyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

23. (New) An emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer is emulsifier polymer (1).

24. (New) An emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer is emulsifier polymer (2).

25. (New) An emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer is emulsifier polymer (3).

26. (New) An emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the water content of the entire composition is 30% or more by mass.

27. (New) An emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer (1) is a copolymer containing polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate and (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof.

28. (New) An emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer (2) is a copolymer containing polyethylene glycol allyl ether and (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof.